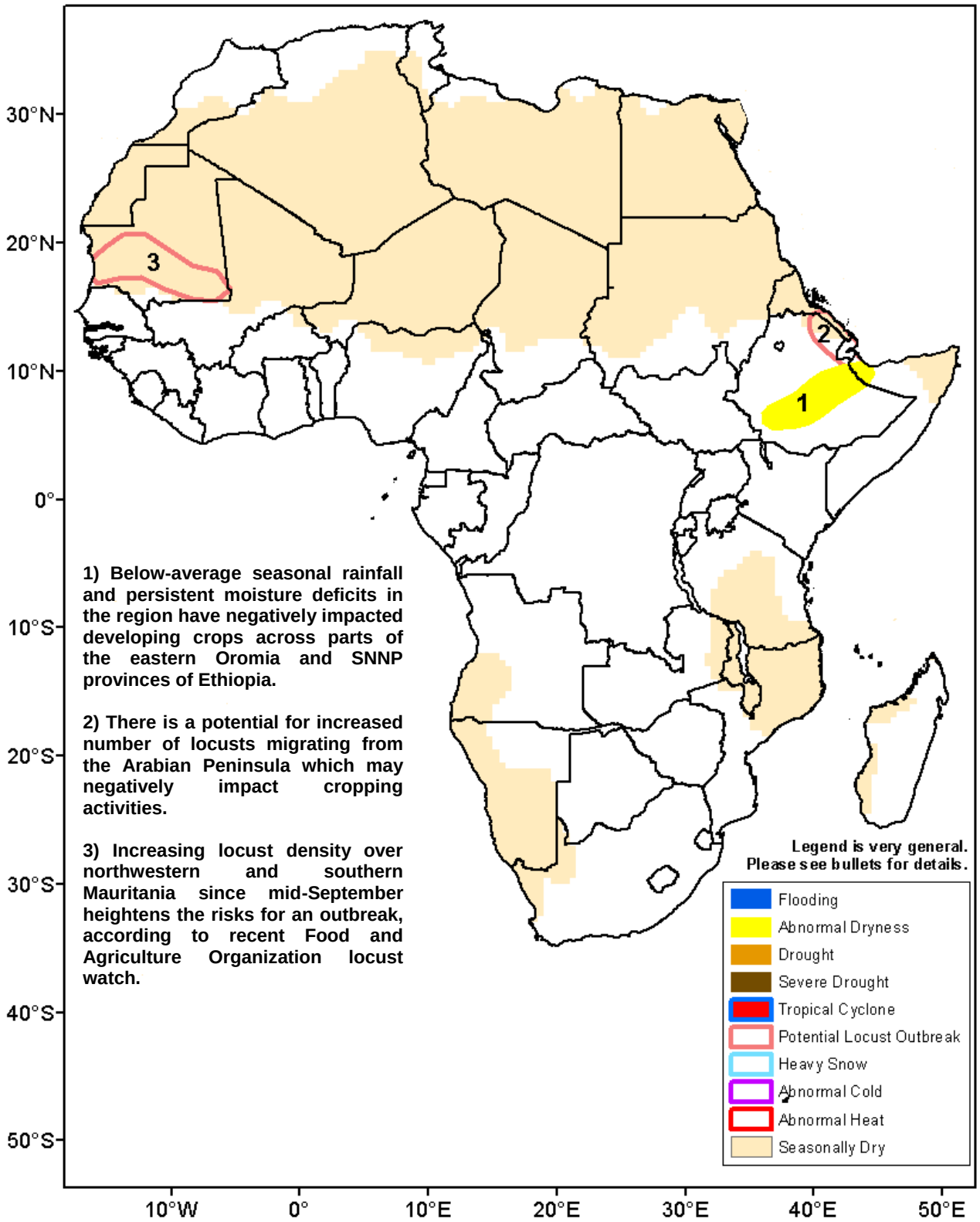
Climate Prediction Center's Africa Hazards Outlook
October 13 – October 19, 2016

- **Reduced rain expected over portions of Equatorial Eastern Africa during the next week.**
- **Favorable seasonal rainfall performance observed over West Africa.**



Small rainfall deficits observed over parts of Eastern Africa since the beginning of October

From October 5-11, moderate to locally heavy rain fell over southern Sudan, portions of western and southern South Sudan, western Ethiopia, and localized areas of Somalia (**Figure 1**). Light to suppressed rain was observed elsewhere. Compared to accumulated rain during the previous week, this past week's total rainfall was slightly reduced, particularly over western Ethiopia. As a result, while the seven-day rainfall anomalies exhibited surpluses across southern Sudan, eastern South Sudan, and bordering western Ethiopia, deficits were registered over south-central South Sudan, west-central Ethiopia, and central Somalia. As the October-December rainfall season progresses, rain across the northern portions of Equatorial Eastern Africa is expected to subside.

While portions of eastern and southern Ethiopia have been impacted by poor rainfall distribution during the previous season, an analysis of rainfall performance since the beginning of October has also shown small deficits over central South Sudan, west-central and eastern Ethiopia, and central Somalia (**Figure 2**). Recent vegetation indices indicated overall average to above-average conditions throughout the region, except the already-affected areas of eastern and southern Ethiopia and portions of southern Somalia and eastern Kenya, which may reflect a dry start to the season.

During the next week, moderate to heavy rain is forecast over the western and eastern portions of Ethiopia and the Puntland region of northern Somalia. In contrast, light and likely below-average rain is expected farther south throughout South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and near the Lake Victoria region. The forecast limited rain may impact cropping activities and delay planting over local areas of Eastern Africa.

Favorable seasonal rainfall performance observed over West Africa.

Rainfall season over much of West Africa, except along the Gulf of Guinea region, is approaching or has come to its end. An analysis of the cumulative rain since mid-July to date has indicated that most areas have received adequate or ample rainfall, with percent of average rainfall exceeding two hundred percent in some areas. These included southern Mauritania, Guinea-Conakry, Sierra Leone, eastern Mali, and coastal areas of Ghana and Nigeria (**Figure 3**). The favorable rainfall performance was mostly attributed to a vigorous and anomalous northerly position of the Inter-Tropical Front. In contrast, the central portions of Senegal and western Liberia have received between only 50-80 percent of their average rain due to an erratic rainfall distribution during the season. In Senegal, however, the lack of rain has had minimal negative impact on crops, according to field reports. Recent vegetation indices have indicated widespread, positive conditions throughout a wide area of the Sahel. For more information, visit http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/international/wafrica/wafrica.shtml.

Satellite-Estimated Total Rainfall (mm)
Valid: October 05 – October 11, 2016

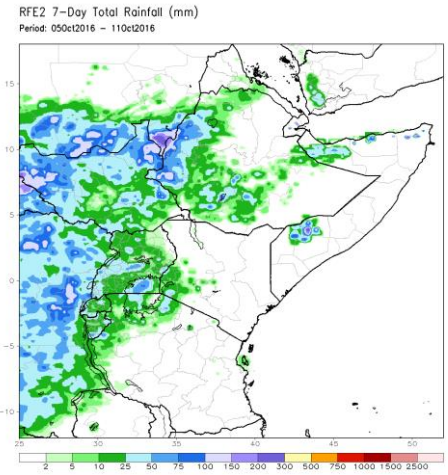


Figure 1: NOAA/CPC

Satellite-Estimated Rainfall Anomaly (mm)
Valid: October 01 – October 11, 2016

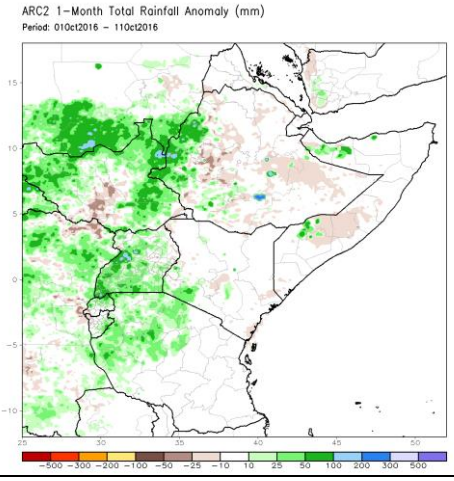


Figure 2: NOAA/CPC

Satellite-Estimated Percent of Normal Rainfall (%)
Valid: July 14 – October 11, 2016

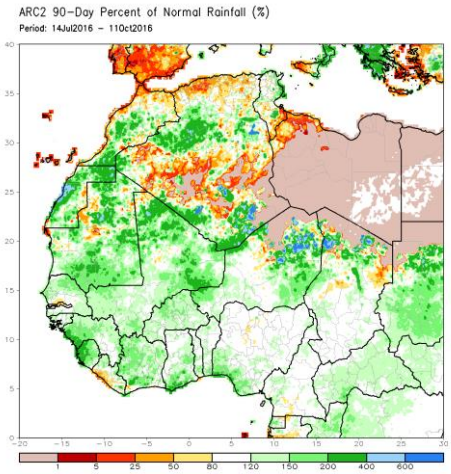


Figure 3: NOAA/CPC

Note: The hazards outlook map on page 1 is based on current weather/climate information and short and medium range weather forecasts (up to 1 week). It assesses their potential impact on crop and pasture conditions. Shaded polygons are added in areas where anomalous conditions have been observed. The boundaries of these polygons are only approximate at this continental scale. This product does not reflect long range seasonal climate forecasts or indicate current or projected food security conditions.

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